Final Action: MEC No. 21-0053-I, Carpenters Help In the Political Process (CHIPP), Martin Walker, Treasurer

Date: 2/10/2022

The Missouri Ethics Commission took final consideration of the complaint filed against Carpenters Help In the Political Process (CHIPP), and Martin Walker, Treasurer at its February 10, 2022 meeting.

The complaint filed with the Commission alleged Respondents concealed their identity as the source of contributions to candidates when they made contributions to another committee, Taxpayers in Support of Public Education, that then made contributions to multiple candidates.

The investigation found that CHIPP made three contributions totaling \$237,000 to Taxpayers in Support of Public Education ("Taxpayers") in the calendar year 2020. Of the \$237,000 contributed by CHIPP to Taxpayers, \$4,500 was then contributed by Taxpayers to two candidates to whom CHIPP had already made the maximum allowable contributions. Taxpayers did not inform CHIPP which candidates it intended to support when it solicited the contributions and CHIPP did not instruct Taxpayers how its contributions could be used. Evidence did not show that CHIPP made the contributions to Taxpayers with the intent to circumvent contribution limits and/or to conceal the true source of a contribution.

From the facts presented, the Commission found no reasonable grounds exist to support a violation of Chapter 130, RSMo, and dismissed the complaint.

Elizabeth L. Ziegler Executive Director